

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
(Adopted May 9, 2005)

**PRESENTATION, INTERVIEWS, SPECIAL SESSION AND WORKSESSION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Closed Session 3/28/05 - Motion by Williams; seconded by Elrich. The Council voted to convene in Closed Session at 7:05 p.m. in the Municipal Building Administration Office, to discuss a personnel matter (VOTING FOR: Porter, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; ABSENT: Austin-Lane, Barry, Mizeur). OFFICIALS PRESENT: Porter, Austin-Lane, Elrich, Seamens, Williams; STAFF/OTHERS PRESENT: Matthews, Hobbs, Silber. Council was briefed on a personnel matter. (Authority: Annotated Code of Maryland, State Government Article, Section 10-508(a)(1)(i))

April 4, 2005

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Mayor Porter	Community and Gov't. Liaison Ludlow
Councilmember Austin-Lane	City Clerk Waters
Councilmember Barry	Housing and Comm. Development Director Daines
Councilmember Elrich	Recreation Director Haiduven
Councilmember Mizeur	Deputy Recreation Director Corley
Councilmember Seamens	Police Chief Creamer
Councilmember Williams	Planner Ilona Blanchard

The City Council convened at 7:47 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Ms. Porter reported that there had been an Executive Function Session earlier in the evening.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Porter announced that an additional \$350,000 has been provided by the State for the Community Center project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Lanar, Scout Leader, described a planned soapbox derby car race. He asked for Council support of the project, scheduled for May 8.

Dave Medina, commented on the conversation about the crossing guard on Philadelphia Avenue. He called on the Police Department to meet this need.

Margo Kabel, said there is great support for the crossing guards at the schools. We should support children who walk to school.

Christine Wilson, said she supports the crossing guard at Cedar. It is hard for children to understand why not to cross at that location.

Dave Lanar, said he is concerned about anything we can do to protect children.

Larry Rubin, Safe Roadways Committee, spoke in favor of the crossing guard.

Megan Scribner, spoke in favor of the crossing guard.

Tom Salyers, Cedar Avenue, commented on the difficulties crossing Philadelphia Avenue on Tuesday morning for story hour and spoke in favor of the crossing guard.

Nina Falk, Cedar Avenue, commented that she hopes that the Council will consider the safety of children.

Suzanna Banwell, Safe Roadways Committee, commented that the challenge for the city is to show that we will make an effort to protect our children across the street.

Seth Grimes, Willow Avenue, said he supports the Safe Roadways Committee recommendations. Mr. Grimes said he appreciations the work that was put into the achievement of obtaining the state bond money. He cited Mayor Porter's testimony that the state bond money would be used to build the next phase of the community center and asked the Council to reduce the amount of money borrowed. He remarked about legal services costs. Mr. Grimes explained his observation and that of Sustainable Takoma.

PRESENTATION

1. Update on the Community Center Construction Project

Ms. Ludlow provided a brief report.

INTERVIEWS

2. Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee - Julie Boddy

The Council interviewed Ms. Boddy for reappointment.

3. Emergency Preparedness Committee - Mary Drake and Ahmed Martinez

The Council interviewed Ms. Drake and Mr. Martinez.

Council discussed how they might handle the appointment of two residents from the same ward (Ward 4), given that the committee membership is limited to six residents, preferably one from each ward.

SPECIAL SESSION

4. Resolution re: Temporary Relocation of the Farmers Market

Ms. Blanchard updated Council on the Laurel Avenue project and the need to temporarily relocate the Farmers Market.

John Hyde, representing the Farmers Market, and David Zelinsky, of 7124 Willow Avenue, joined the discussion.

Mr. Zelinsky summarized his concerns about the proposal.

Motion by Elrich; second by Seamens.

The Council discussed the proposed resolution. Council decided to keep access to the parking lots open, to not waive the fee, to keep Willow open to local traffic only with the exception of customers of Takoma Business Center that use the Wackenhut Parking Lot and customers egressing from the parking lot of 7000 Carroll Avenue. The resolution was further revised to specify that the parking restrictions on Willow would be on Sundays between the hours of 8:45 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

Resolution 2005-23, as amended, was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution 2005-23
(Attached)

5. Resolution re: Transportation of Hazardous Materials

Motion by Austin-Lane; second by Seamens

Resolution 2005-24 was adopted (VOTING FOR: Porter, Austin-Lane, Barry, Elrich, Mizeur, Seamens, Williams).

Resolution 2005-24
(Attached)

WORKSESSION

6. Proposed Ordinance Establishing the Committee on the Environment as a Statutory Committee

Catherine Tunis, Chair of the Committee on the Environment, was present for the discussion.

Council discussed the proposed ordinance, including the requirement for advertisement prior to appointing members, the committee's desire to have potential members serve as interns and recommend members, and the ability of the committee to form sub-committees. The ordinance, with revisions, will be scheduled for first reading.

7. Staff Response to the Safe Roadways Committee Recommendation for Crossing Guard

Chief Creamer summarized her concerns about allocating a crossing guard to Philadelphia Avenue at Cedar Avenue.

Council discussed the issue. Chief Creamer was directed to temporarily assign a crossing guard to the intersection to count the number of children interested in crossing at the intersection and redirect them to the Maple/Philadelphia crosswalk. Chief Creamer is to return to Council in one to two weeks with additional information.

BREAK

The Council recessed for a scheduled break at 10:41 p.m. and reconvened at 11:00 p.m.

8. Community Center Use and Rental Policies

Ms. Ludlow introduced the topic, noting that Council will be asked to think about different ways of computing use and fees for the new building.

Recreation Director Haiduven provided a slide presentation (attached). Council agreed to continue the discussion in the near future.

ADJOURMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 12:12 a.m.